

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-02 H-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /085 W

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R 261715Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7026

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 05010

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, EIND

SUBJECT: FOURCADE VIEWS ON AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT BY  
AIR FRANCE

1. PRESS FEB. 26 REPORTS REMARKS MADE AT LUNCHEON WITH JOURNALISTS PREVIOUS DAY BY FINANCE MINISTER FOURCADE IN WHICH HE WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF AIR FRANCE PROCUREMENT OF FOREIGN (I.E. AMERICAN) AIRCRAFT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON WHETHER AIR FRANCE WOULD BE BUYING FOREIGN AIRCRAFT AS REPLACEMENT FOR ITS OLD CARAVELLES AND 707'S, FOURCADE SAID THAT AIR FRANCE WOULD ABIDE BY GOF'S VIEWS IN THIS MATTER OR AIR FRANCE TOP MANAGEMENT WOULD BE CHANGED. HE SAID THAT PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT OF A NATIONALIZED ENTERPRISE COULD NOT CARVE OUT A FEUDAL SYSTEM OF THEIR OWN WITHIN THE STATE, AND THEY HAD TO BE REMINDED FROM TIME TO TIME OF "THE NORMAL RULES OF COMMON SENSE AND PROPER ADMINISTRATION". AFP REPORTS HIM AS SAYING: "WE'RE GOING TO SELL THE MERCURE IN FRANCE. IT'S AN EXCELLENT AIRCRAFT." LE MONDE REPORTED THE REMARKS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY: "I AM CONVINCED THAT AIR FRANCE WILL BUY THE MERCURE AND NOT AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT."

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2. IN THE COURSE OF THE EVENING FINANCE MINISTRY ISSUED A MISE AU POINT TO AFP STATING THAT FOURCADE'S REMARKS HAD BEEN "INACCURATELY REPORTED". FINANCE MINISTRY STATEMENT ADDED: "THE MINISTER HAD DECLARED ONLY THAT THE DECISION ON AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT WAS CURRENTLY PENDING BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT, INSOFAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, HE DID NOT FAVOR THE PURCHASE OF FOREIGN AIRCRAFT AND DID FAVOR THE PURCHASE OF FRENCH AIRCRAFT, MAINLY IN ORDER TO REDRESS THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS."

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DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05

L-02 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /085 W

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3. BOEING REP, IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES FROM PRESS ON STATE OF "NEGOTIATIONS" WITH AIR FRANCE FOR SALE OF 737'S, TELLS US HE INDICATED THAT WHILE BOEING HAS BEEN TRYING TO INTEREST AIR FRANCE FOR SOME TIME IN BUYING MORE 737'S, NO NEGOTIATIONS PER SE HAD YET BEEN INITIATED THOUGH BOEING HAD SUBMITTED AN OFFER TO AIR FRANCE.

4. AFP REPORTS AIR FRANCE ISSUED FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE FEB. 26: "FOLLOWING THE REMARKS MADE BY THE FINANCE MINISTER AND THE COMMENTS WHICH THEY HAVE PROVOKED, AIR FRANCE WISHES TO SPELL OUT ITS

POSITION AS CONCERNS THE PROBLEM OF RENEWAL OF ITS  
FLEET.

"AIR FRANCE DOES INDEED WISH TO REPLACE ITS CARAVELLES,  
WHICH HAVE VERY HIGH FUEL CONSUMPTION, BY MODERN  
AIRCRAFT OF EQUIVALENT CAPACITY. AIR FRANCE WISHES TO  
DO SO AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO BE IN A  
POSITION TO COMPETE WITH ITS EUROPEAN COMPETITORS WHO  
ARE EQUIPPED WITH MODERN AIRCRAFT.

"THE COMPANY HAS STUDIED AND CONTINUES TO STUDY ALL  
SOLUTIONS AND HAS INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF ITS  
NEEDS.

"PERFECTLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE FRENCH AND  
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EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WHOSE COLORS  
IT ALONE, WITH AIR INTER, IS DEFENDING BY FLYING  
AIRBUS AND SOON ALSO CONCORDE, AIR FRANCE IS  
INSPIRED BY NO OTHER CONCERN THAN TO BEST SERVE THE  
NATIONAL INTEREST AND TO DO SO BY DISPLAYING A BROAD  
OUTLOOK IN WHICH ITS OWN VITAL INTERESTS MUST BE  
SAFEGUARDED."

5. IMPLICATIONS OF FOURCADE STATEMENT ARE DISCUSSED  
IN SEPTELS.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:**  
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